

The Times.

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THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1898.

SPANISH CHARACTER.

In one of his letters to the London
Times while he was on Captain Sampson's
flagship the New York, in front of Havana,
Richard Harding Davis says:

"Four days since I talked with a man
who a year ago, when a Spanish prisoner,
was racked to make him tell secrets, and
three days ago a Spanish officer, who was
a prisoner on this ship next to me at the
wardroom mess and was given Nicotene
wine to drink and large fat, expensive
cigars to smoke, while his orderly was
feasted by the 'jackies' forward. It was
war, and it was magnificent."

The difference between Spain and
America is entirely illustrated here. We
caught this Spanish officer while making
a trip to Matanzas to see his wife and
infant that was just born, and though he
and his orderly expected to have their
eyes put out, their finger nails pulled
out, and then to be executed by the most
torturing processes, the officers of our
ships treated the Spanish officer as a re-
spected enemy in distress, and Captain
Sampson paroled him and let him go on to
see his wife and child. What this officer
expected for himself is very possibly
what would have happened to one of our
officers if he had had the misfortune to
fall into Spanish hands. Mr. Davis makes
no exaggeration when he says he had
talked within four days with a man who,
less than a year ago, had been tortured
on the rack by the Spaniards. They have
made little if any advances in civilization
since the tortures of the Inquisition were
the ordinary methods of government in
Spain, and a Spaniard is as ready to seek
his ends though those diabolical measures
now as a Spaniard was five hundred
years ago.

This trait in Spanish character is the
result of the institutions of Spain and the
opposite trait in our character is the
result of the free institutions of the Anglo
Saxons. Spain represents the natural
outgrowth of Roman institutions, which,
being founded upon the idea of a free and
a slave caste, have resulted in two essentially
marked conditions of society in
Spain, an aristocratic superior one and
one unlettered, bigoted, ignorant, and, for
all practical purposes, slavish one. It
seems strange that the upper caste, pos-
sessing so many admirable qualities can
be as cruel and remorseless as it is when
its interests or supposed interests are
interfered with. A recent writer speaking
of them says "The Spaniards are still
among the most noble minded, sympathetic
and intelligent peoples of the civilized
world. They are 'nature's gentlemen' and
possess an aesthetic taste capable of
a high degree of development and a number
of noble traits and rare qualities,
which, under the guidance of ordinarily
competent rulers should and would en-
title them to occupy a place higher than
that of Italy in the hierarchy of nations."

The Spaniards have much of the very finest
literature that the world possesses.

But their abominable institutions, growing
out of Rome's theories of slavery,
have turned everything pertaining to govern-
ment top-sy-turvy in Spain, and they have
there little more than a semi-ordered
anarchy tempered by all the corruption
of socialism. The Madrid correspondent
of the London Telegraph writing his paper
a week or so back, gives the following
account of the difficulty of sending off
a telegram, the telegraph being under
government control.

"The Spanish ceremonies which accom-
pany the handing in of a telegram would
be amusing were they not so irksome and
time-consuming. You approach a little win-
dow in the one office in the city, and, when
your turn comes, hand in your message.
The clerk counts the words a couple
of times over, adds up the result of each
page, refers to the written tariff and finds
out what the cost is in francs. Then he
takes another slip of paper, finds out
what the rate of exchange is at the mo-
ment, and reduces the francs to Spanish
pesetas. Finally he reads out the result—
say, 500 pesetas 35 centimes. You en-
grave these figures in your memory, and
leaving the hall, go out to another win-
dow in a passage where there are wait-
ing a number of clerks, each with a book
in his hand, repeating always the number,
500.35, till the clerk asks you what you
want. Then you explain that you are come
to purchase Spanish stamps for the sum
of 500 pesetas 35 centimes, and you take
out a note for 1,000 pesetas. The passage
is dark on the brightest day, and you accept
the stamps and your change in an
spirit of true religious faith, for you see
not even fairly as in a glass. When you
return to the inner sanctum and help to
make queue, awaiting your turn again,
the chances are that you find yourself

short of stamps, in consequence of a
mistake on the part of the clerk outside.
This happened twice to me, but I am
bound to say the individual discovered
and rectified his error, so that my only
loss was of about thirty-five minutes
more.

"But the most curious thing of all is the
process of recovering your money if the
telegram be suppressed. There is no way
of obtaining it speedily. You must wait.
Messages of mine to the value of several
hundred pesetas were stopped, and I called
at the office for the money. I was told
Germany, Turkey, Austria—every-
where, in fact—the money paid is refunded
at once. But not so in Spain. Here you
have to make various pilgrimages, from
post to pillar, interviewing officials,
dignitaries, clerks, porters. All shake their
heads, shrug their shoulders, pursue
their lips and assure you that the govern-
ment allows them no special funds for the
purpose. 'Yes, but if you do not for-
ward my message, for which I have no
money, you have no right to keep my
money.' 'Oh, no! of course not. We are
not to blame, you know. You had better
see our chief. He is very busy now, but
if you call to-morrow I am sure you can
see him.' I spent for which I had no
money, and I was told to go to the sub-
ordinate to chief, and at last I received
the following satisfactory promise: 'If you
will write a petition to the chief of the
telegraph, asking that the money be re-
funded you for the suppressed message,
he will deal with it in due time.' 'What
is due time?' I ventured to inquire. 'Well,
we cannot promise anything,' said my in-
formant, Senor Perez, 'except that, when
the funds allow it, you shall have your
money back.' But could you, perhaps,
say approximately when? He could not,
but another official could, and did—'Any
time between two and four months!'

"Such is a specimen—a tame, humdrum
specimen—of the methods of procedure in
advances, for which the kingdom of Spain
under the most liberal of liberal govern-
ments, in the cultured capital of Madrid.
What takes place in the provinces and
what took place in Cuba we cannot affirm
with certainty, but here we have old proverbs
fodder for the good: 'If they do these
things in a green tree, what shall be done
in the dry?' Spain has truly fallen upon
evil days."

WHO PAYS THE TAXES?

We have time and again called atten-
tion to the effort that has been made by
a certain class of people to force the rich
men of the country to pay the cost of the
war with Spain, and these efforts have
been taken on all sorts of pretexts.

One proposition is to tax incomes over
\$1,000 a year; another to levy a special
tax upon corporations. All such meas-
ures are popular because there are com-
paratively few persons who have an in-
come of more than \$1,000 a year, and
comparatively few persons who are di-
rectly interested in corporations.

These measures would not be so popular
however, if the people would only stop
to consider that this tax after all, no
matter how it is levied, will undoubtedly
be paid, in part at least, by the poor
man.

Let us look a bit into this matter.
Some poor men have an idea that they
are not concerned about the subject of
taxation because they happen to live in
a rented house and own no property
which the tax-gatherer can get at. But
does the man who lives in a rented house
escape taxation? Not a bit of it. The
man who owns the house settles the bill
with the State and the city, but the
man who pays the rent is the man who
pays the tax. The tax is always added
to the rent, and you can depend upon it.

Now go a step farther. Those men
who have incomes of \$1,000 and more are
owners of property, real estate and other-
wise, and they are generally smart
enough to take into consideration the
question of taxes in fixing their charges
with those who do business with them.
It is pretty safe to calculate that if a
discriminating tax is levied on incomes,
the rich men upon whom such discrim-
inating tax is levied is going to make
somebody else help to pay the bill.

And now as to corporations. Who pays
the tax? The stockholders? Not at all.
The tax is charged up to expense just
as labor and material are charged and
those who patronize the corporations pay it.

The protectionists tell us that the for-
eigner pays the tariff tax, but the Amer-
ican people have found out that the tax
comes eventually out of the pocket of
the consumer. The American people are
a great power and they can do every-
thing that any other people can do, but
they cannot accomplish the impossible.
They cannot change economic laws, no
more than they can change the laws of
nature. They cannot make a dollar out
of fifty cents worth of material. They
cannot levy a tax on foreign goods and
yet buy those goods as cheaply as if
there were no tax. They cannot levy
an internal tax on any one class of citi-
zens without making all classes of citi-
zens bear their part of the burden. It
simply complicated matters and causes
confusion to try any other plan and with-
out benefit to the class which such dis-
crimination would protect.

NOT A "LOST CAUSE."

In his admirable address at Oakwood
Memorial on Tuesday last, Rev. Dr. W. A.
Barr, making reference to "The Lost
Cause," said that "no cause is ever lost
that has in it integrity of purpose and an
honest conviction of the right."

This is peculiarly true of the Confed-
erate cause. We did not win all that we
fought for. We did not establish the
Southern Confederacy, but that endeavor
was a mere incident of the war. The
South did not go to war in any spirit,
primarily, to set up a government of its
own. It was not averse to the Union and
it did not decide to retire until it felt
convinced that the government was in-
fringing upon the rights of the States
and that the States could not enjoy their
constitutional rights under the Federal
government.

It was not therefore, we say, for inde-
pendent government that the South
fought, but for the great American prin-
ciple of sovereign statehood. In this re-
spect the war between the States was
perhaps without a parallel. There had
been wars of conquest, wars for revenge,
wars for glory and fame, wars for lib-
erty and for various other objects, and
now this country is waging a war for
humanity. But we believe that never in
the history of the world was there a war
so distinctly and so entirely in defense
of a great principle as that which the
Southern Confederacy waged against the
United States government.

It is not a lost cause. No cause is ever
lost whose motive is principle. The North
was a long time in understanding it.
The people of the North have had it in
their heads that the South went to war
simply because it wished to disrupt the
Union and set up a government of its
own. But they are learning better. Their
eyes were already beginning to open
when this war with Spain was begun.
Now they see that the South is as de-
voted as any other section to the Stars
and Stripes, and is as essentially as any
other section a part and parcel of the great
federation of States. Now they are be-
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Nor was that war in vain. It was waged
at great sacrifice of noble life, but the
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It almost invariably happens that it
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always an element of politics in the op-
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But apart from all this there is a great
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that the Government dispenses that is re-
sponsible more than anything for corrupt
politics, and the less patronage the Gov-
ernment has to dispense the better and
purer will be the conduct of the public
service.

FARMERS DO NOT COMPLAIN.

For a long time past the farmers have
had the impression that Wall street specu-
lators were responsible for the low
price of farm products, and for that reason
there have been from time to time
numerous attempts to prevent specu-
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It is now said, however, that Mr.
Joseph Leiter is responsible for the high
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speculations not only lined his own pockets,
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So far as we have seen there has been
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tiful sisters as well as each other."—De-
troit Journal.

A Corker.
The Spaniards who thought they had
Dewey bottled up, got their notion from
the wrong bottle, that was all.—Cleve-
land Leader.

Fatal.
Maline, Morro, Matanzas, mule and
Manila. This would seem to be a war
of attrition.—Washington Star.

Answered.
"What is a prophet, Uncle Jim?"
"A prophet? He is a person who is
always surprised at the way things turn
out."—Chicago Record.

On the Prescription.
"What makes you so sure he will be a
great physician?"
"Just look at his handwriting."—Chica-
go Post.

Protected.
Returned Traveler—Yes; the Venetian
dollars usually sing as they row, but
ours didn't.
Returned Traveler—We paid them ex-
tra not to do it.—Puck.

Grim Satisfaction.
"Well," said Sagasta, with a wicked
gleam in his eye, "I have this much to
say."
"What?" asked Gullon.
"When it's all over, I hope those
Americans will have a sample of the
trouble we've had with Cuba and the
Philippines."—North American.

A Wise Lad.
"Boys," said a teacher in a Sunday
school, "can any of you quote a verse
from Scripture to prove that it is wrong
for a man to have two wives?"
He paused and after a moment or two
a bright boy raised his hand.
"Well, Thomas," said the teacher, en-
couragingly.
Thomas stood up and said:
"No man can serve two masters."—
Ram's Horn.

Patriotic Swindling.
Grocer's Clerk—"We're not selling any
of these Spanish olives. The people
won't have 'em."
Grocer (after considering the matter)—
"Well, it will not do to change the label
to 'American olives' because it wouldn't
be honest. And, besides, we'd have to
sell them cheaper. Label them 'Castilian
olives,' Jacobs, and mark them up five
cents a bottle."—Chicago Tribune.

Discouraged Soldier.
He meekly stood before her.
His hands were clasped in prayer.
"I'm going to fight the Spaniards,"
In trembling tones he said:
And did she weep, imploring
Him not to go away?
And did she say she loved him,
And beg that he would stay?
Ah, no! She was his mother,
And he was twelve or so;
She took her slipper to him—
He decided not to go.—Chicago News.

The Virginia Volunteer.
Whether country's right or wrong,
"Dixie Land" will be their song.
When they meet old Spain;
And the Spaniards, we opine,
Will regret they laid the mine
That blew up the Maine.

Spain is playing a losing game.
Since Dewey won immortal fame.
To us it doth appear
So Blanco had better play his trump.
For Uncle Sam's plans his trump—
The Virginia Volunteer.

Old Virginia's in the van.
Headed by that gallant man,
Brave old Fitzhugh Lee,
And from the summit of Havana
Proudly will float our starry banner—
Emblem of the free.—T. W. F.

AFTERMATH.
The City Council of Savannah has re-
fused to grant a sixty days' leave of ab-
sence to two of the Fire Commissioners
who left recently to enlist with the United
States volunteers. The City Attorney ad-
vises that there is no law permitting the
city to grant such leave of absence.

The Spanish prisoners at Fort McPherson,
Ga., were plentifully supplied with
money. When searched on Sunday night
last one of the officers had no less than
\$7,000 in paper money and gold on his
person.

Colonel E. R. Sutton, of Governor
Pinckney's staff, has gone to Ann Harbor,
Mich., for the purpose of making ar-
rangements for mustering in a volunteer
company of students from the University.

Mr. O. H. P. Belmont has made an
offer to the government to construct a
line war ship and present her to the navy,
offered, manned and fully equipped for
active service. Mr. Belmont asks that
he be assigned to command the new ves-
sel and to select his officers and crew.
Mr. Belmont is a graduate of the Annapolis
Naval Academy.

The engagement is announced in Lon-
don of William Angus Drogo Montagu,
ninth Duke of Manchester, to Joan,
daughter of Mr. Charles Henry Wilson,
member of Parliament for West Hull, the
well known ship owner.

The New York Evening Journal and
Evening World have raised their price
to newsboys from 50 to 60c a hundred,
and the boys are up in arms about it.
Night before last they made an attack
upon wagons containing these newspapers,
threw the papers out and set them
afire.

The historic name of the Bowery in
New York is threatened with extinction.
There is a formidable movement on foot
among merchants doing business on that
thoroughfare, says the Sun, to change its
name, and a petition numerously signed
has already been started. The reason
for the change, that the name of the
district is a disgrace to the city, and that
some people believing the thoroughfare to be
dangerous to life and limb.

Charlotte Thompson, a well known ac-
tress who made her reputation in a dra-
matization of Jane Eyre, is dead.

Mrs. John Fisher, of Holmesburg, a
suburb of Philadelphia, recently made
complaint to a police magistrate that her
husband, who is seventy-nine years old,
had sopped with a neighbor who has pas-
saged his sixtieth birthday. The elderly
young things have since been apprehend-
ed, and the husband was arrested on a
warrant of desertion. The eighty-year-
old wife, however, protested